

TALLYHO

Serving the men and women of Fighter Country

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Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

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Senior Airman Elizabeth Krichbaum

Airman 1st Class Aaron Seligman, 56th Security Forces Squadron base entry controller, ensures force protection at the main gate and remains vigilant against possible threats.

Tax center offers free preparation

The 2000 Luke Tax Center opens Monday in Room 1064, Bldg. 1150, to help active-duty military, their family members and military retirees file their 1999 federal income tax returns.

The center is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. until April 17. The deadline to file taxes is April 17 because the traditional April 15 deadline falls on a Saturday.

Tax assistance is provided on a walk-in basis, said Staff Sgt. Jay Dorris, tax center NCO. An appointment is not necessary.

To use the center's services, customers must bring military identification card, their spouse's and dependents' Social Security card, their wage and tax statements, interest income statements and other pertinent information necessary to file their taxes.

"Customers can file their returns electronically or have us print out the forms so they can mail them to the IRS (Internal Revenue Service)," Dorris said. "Those filing electronically should receive their refund in two weeks. Customers who mail their returns should get their refund in four to six weeks."

About 50 volunteers from on-base units and the local community staff the tax center.

Volunteers are certified by the IRS and trained in both tax law and how to use electronic filing software. However, they are not qualified to handle complex tax returns.

An example of a complex return is for people with rental properties and certain types of small businesses, Dorris said. In these cases, a paid tax preparer is recommended.

Tax center volunteers helped people file about 2,000 federal income tax returns last year and expect to file even more 1999 returns.

To help simplify the process, Dorris suggests people visit the center toward the end of the week.

"Keep in mind, however, that the center is at its busiest at the beginning and end of the tax season," she said.

This means people should expect a little longer wait during these times. This is also why it is critical customers bring the proper documents so a return visit may be avoided.

For more information or to make an appointment, call Dorris at the tax center at 856-3140. In addition Capt. Faisal Siddiqui at 856-6901, can also provide tax assistance. *(Courtesy of the 56th Fighter Wing Legal Office)*

Goodbye 'Alpha'

Air Force returns to normal threat, remains vigilant

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Luke returned to threat condition "normal" Tuesday for the first time in more than a year when Gen. Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, terminated threat condition "Alpha" Air Force-wide.

Nevertheless, installation commanders are directed to maintain a threat condition appropriate to the terrorist threat for their area.

"All Team Luke members should continue to look for and report any suspicious activity," said Brig. Gen. John Barry, 56th Fighter Wing commander. "Each of

us needs to be aware of and follow Air Force anti-terrorism and force protection standards. The theme, 'every airman a warrior, every airman a sensor,' is still in effect."

Threat condition "Alpha" was initiated after terrorist attacks on U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and the subsequent retaliation by American military forces.

"All members must remain aware of possible threat situations and take the necessary action to deter acts of aggression toward personnel and operations," Ryan said.

Threat conditions describe progressive levels of terrorist threats to U.S. military facilities and personnel. The selection of the appropriate response to terrorist threats is the responsibility of the commanders of threatened facilities or personnel.

Threat condition "normal" is implemented when a general threat of possible terrorist activity exists, but warrants only a routine security posture.

"No matter how small a threat, we cannot afford to become complacent," said Capt. Robert Frederiksen, 56th FW anti-terrorism officer. "We must remain vigilant against possible terrorist threats."

AFPC selects Luke to test officer assignment system

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

To provide better customer service to Team Luke officers, the Air Force Personnel Center recently launched a new program for updating duty information change requests.

Team Luke is one of three test bases within the United States selected by AFPC to field-test the assignment program.

The In System Request system makes up for personnel Concept III deficiencies and allows real-time data changes to be done electronically.

"Current procedures for processing duty changes in the PC III system takes as long as six weeks to get AFPC approvals," said Pam Oswald, 56th Mission Support Squadron, chief of personnel employment. "The change requests would get bogged down and sometimes even fall out of the system. This really caused problems when an officer was up for a promotion board and assign-

ment changes weren't back on time."

The ISR program is a streamlined system that directly ties together the commander's support staff, military personnel flight and AFPC, while providing major commands with the ability to monitor updates.

"The new system is designed to receive an AFPC response to changes within three duty days," Oswald said. "As a test base, we will work out any bugs in the system before it goes on line Air Force-wide."

Other units participating in the test are the 56th Medical Group and the 308th, 63rd and 62nd Fighter Squadrons.

"This system is a perfect example of how Luke is helping make the way the Air Force does business better," said Lt. Col. Paul Price, 56th MSS commander. "The real winner is going to be the customer, not just at Luke, but throughout the Air Force."

The new ISR program is expected to be implemented Air Force-wide by the end of 2000.

In with the new...



U.S. AIR FORCE

An artist's rendition of the proposed new Air Force logo. As the Air Force continues its transition into the expeditionary aerospace force, it focuses its identity to help with recruiting and retention into the 21st century.

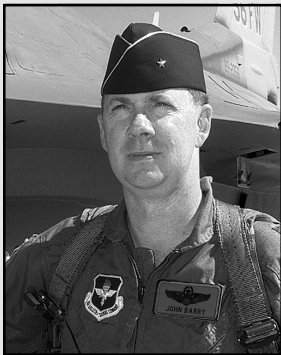
Action Line

As Team Luke members, we share a common goal: supporting each other and working together to provide the best programs and services.

Your ideas, suggestions, comments and kudos are an important ingredient for continuous improvement. When the appropriate officials are unable to ensure

satisfactory treatment, certainly you can call me through the Action Line at 856-7011 or send an e-mail to command.actionline@luke.af.mil.

I ask callers to include names and telephone numbers so we can provide a personal response. Together we can continue Luke's reputation as the ideal place to live, work and visit.



Brig. Gen. John Barry
56th FW commander

Housing renovations

Comment: My wife and I had been on the base housing list for more than a year and finally received an unrenovated home. I was very disappointed. The washer and dryer is at the end of the counter where we cook our food and the kitchen table is also right next to the washer and dryer. Not to mention, there are no dishwashers and they still have metal drawers and cabinets.

Housing said it would be two years before renovations resumed. Can you do anything about this? I love the Air Force, I love the way we live and when this happened I was shell shocked. I grew up poor and I don't want my wife nor my children to feel shame like I did. I would just like to see if we could do something before that.

Response: Thank you for your base housing candid remarks. We realize some houses need to be modernized and we have several projects of more than \$90 million at Luke starting in 2001. In the meantime, we do use other funding resources to do small contractual in-house improvements to improve appearance and livability. For example, interior work includes installing carpet, replacing kitchen cabinets and exterior work includes replacing windows, roofs, landscaping, etc. This work is accomplished during a change of occupancy.

Civil engineers are also investigating ways to develop a standardized group of home improvement projects for residents who have the skills or are willing to learn. Thank you for highlighting a major concern we all have. We are committed to providing quality homes for all of Team Luke.

Team Luke good citizen

My father-in-law was in a car accident Dec. 9 about one mile east of Luke on Glendale Avenue. It was a positive reflection of the Luke community and Air Force when a member of the base stopped and offered to help until the proper authorities arrived. However, we seem to have lost his name and number. We would like to personally thank him for helping. If he is reading, please call the 56th Support Group at 856-6324.

Days since last Luke DUI:



Use a designated driver

Tallyho staff reviews policy

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

As editor of the "Tallyho", I would like to keep our readers informed of publication policies and procedures.

Bottom line, the "Tallyho" is the 56th Fighter Wing commander's tool to keep Team Luke's active-duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, civilian employees, retirees and family members informed of what's happening at Luke, in the Air Force and the Department of Defense.

That's a pretty large and varied audience and an ambitious undertaking for our small staff. But we try hard to share important news and to recognize the accomplishments and sacrifices of our readers.

Publishing guidelines and policy for "Tallyho" stories are governed by Air Force instructions and the wing commander. The following are those guidelines:

Story ideas

The "Tallyho" staff relies on its readers and each unit's public affairs representatives to inform them about significant events, functions and sports. These stringers are the lifeline that enables us to cover interesting activities that are important to you.

Submissions

Send story ideas or proposed stories via e-mail to tallyho@luke.af.mil or send a fax to 856-6013. They can also be dropped off at the "Tallyho" office, Bldg. 1150, Room 1018. When possible, story submissions should be in Microsoft Word format. While every submission is considered for use, the "Tallyho" staff can't guarantee publication. Submissions must be edited for space and meet security, propriety and content standards. During editing, some wording may change to make the story easier to read or text cut to make the story fit in the newspaper. The story idea, however, won't change.

The "Tallyho" is not a suitable forum for publication of essays, fiction and poetry.

Advertisements are handled by Pueblo Publishing at (623) 842-6000.

Deadlines

To meet the contracted publication schedule, the deadline for "Tallyho" contributions is the Friday before publication by noon. Time-sensitive stories should be submitted with as much lead-time as possible. If a story can't be submitted before deadline, the contributor should call to make arrangements if possible.

Awards and retirements

With more than 6,000 military and 1,000 civilian personnel at Luke, it is impossible to recognize every outstanding performer and award winner in the "Tallyho." Therefore, stories are written on individuals and units winning Air Force-level awards. Units winning command-level awards are published on a space-available basis. All other awards are mentioned in the "Salutes" section.

Retirement stories are reserved for Air Force senior leaders, however, retirement ceremony announcements may be included in news briefs.

Photographs

Photographs have a powerful pull in journalism and a good photo draws a reader into the story. Whenever possible, the "Tallyho" staff avoids cliché pictures like "shake and take" award presentation photos, "smile-for-the-camera" shots and photos of large groups. While ceremonial pictures look great on your mantle, they generally are unsuitable for publication.

The best photo is based on simplicity. Action should make the viewer feel as though they are seeing real activity and not a posed situation.

No matter how good a picture is, it will not be published if it violates of safety, policy, good taste, or dress and appearance standards.

The "Tallyho" staff is responsible for taking or arranging photos for publication. For other photo requests, call 856-6168. Instant pictures can't be used.

Commitment to service

The "Tallyho" staff is dedicated to producing a quality newspaper for Team Luke and welcomes all submissions and suggestions. For more information about the newspaper policy, call 856-6055.

View from the top

IGs serve important AF role

By Gen. Lloyd W. Newton
AETC commander

Every day across this command, thousands of people do great things for our Air Force that keep it a world-class organization. The Air Force is a phenomenally diverse organization. Missions and operations cover the spectrum of warfare, and in AETC's role, our mission covers recruiting, training and educating people to do the jobs necessary for victory in war and successful peacetime operations.

How do we in AETC, and Air Force-wide, maintain the standards of performance necessary for a quality organization? One way is through our inspector general system.

My charter to our IG team basically follows our Air Force core values. First, the IG looks for "excellence in all we do." We have creative, energetic people who are always developing better ways to do something. They follow the motto "work smarter, not harder." During inspections, the IG looks for top quality programs and processes –

what we call "best practices." The IG then acts as a "force multiplier" by highlighting these best practices to the rest of the command.

The IG's reporting function helps us to identify the selfless contributions of many people who might not otherwise be recognized. "Service before self," our second Air Force core value, is recognized by IGs as they highlight outstanding performers in their inspection reports.

The idea of accountability should not surprise anyone in an organization with "integrity first" as a core value. Inherent in our oath of office or enlistment is our responsibility to the American public to uphold the good stewardship of our national resources. Consequently, our IG serves as an independent check in the balancing act of command.

What should an IG visit be like? Ideally, for you, it should be a demonstration of your everyday practices. For decades, this command has educated and trained people by constantly testing and refining tried and true procedures and techniques.

We have built the best Air Force

in the world. It makes no sense to ignore the lessons of the past as prescribed in our published instructions. Therefore, you need to know and understand our guidelines, and follow them in your everyday work, while, I should add, always looking for ways to do things better. That's what the Air Force is all about. Building on already good practices and programs to make our unit, our command, our Air Force even stronger and more effective in what we're tasked to do.

In doing that, you will demonstrate your "core values" in a positive way and contribute to the overall success of your unit during an inspection. Personal pride, quality assurance, mentoring—any improvement effort you can think of will help prepare you for an IG visit.

Inspection is mentoring on a large, unit scale. Through the IG, we observe, document, critique and suggest future courses of corrective action. An inspection is an important tool for managers and leaders. I place great value in the "lessons learned" from our inspection process and you should too.

Editorial information

The 56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office prepares all editorial content for the "Tallyho." The editor will edit or re-write material for clarity, brevity or to conform with Air Force style as required by Air Force Instruction 35-1.

Contributors, please deliver articles typed, double-spaced and on an IBM-compatible floppy disk to the public affairs office or send through distribution to 56 FW/PA, Attn: Editor or send them via e-mail to Tallyho@luke.af.mil. The phone number to the editorial office is 856-6055.

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are U.S. Air Force photos. The "Tallyho" uses material from the Armed Forces Information Service, Air Force News Service, Air Education and Training Command News Service and other sources. All advertising is handled by Pueblo Publishers, Inc. 7122 N. 59th Ave., Glendale, Ariz., 85301, phone (623) 842-6000.

Deadline for "Tallyho" submissions is Friday at noon.



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Supply squadron introduces more efficient tracking system

By Kristen M. Butler
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 56th Supply Squadron introduces a new tracking system beginning in February to increase efficiency and reduce paper use.

The Supply Asset Tracking System initiative tracks items into and out of base supply using bar code and radio frequency technology and not paper, Staff Sgt. David Barney, 56th Supply Squadron NCO in charge of customer support, said.

Basically, from the time the part is receipted into base supply until the customer signs for the property, SATS knows who has moved the property and where it is located. In addition, if the item is turned back in, the part is again tracked until it is stored serviceable or shipped off base for disposal or repair.

"At any given moment, customers can check on a piece of equipment, a part, etc." Barney said. "It provides them with a real-time assessment of a delivery — the new system eliminates the guesswork, or in rare cases, searching for an item."

Before, Luke used paper receipts and signatures, which created endless filing and made it difficult to track assets, Barney explained. With SATS, customers insert credit card-sized "smart" cards into a portable, hand-held terminal to receive an item.

To receive a shipment, customers must have these "smart" cards or they cannot receive their goods. The cards contain a microchip that stores a customer's name, rank, organization and tells the person making the delivery what types of items that customer is authorized to receive. It indicates, for example, what organizations customers can sign for, if they can accept equipment, receive classified materials, etc.

In addition, the system eliminates approximately 90 percent of printed documents. A self-adhesive label, placed directly on the property, replaces the former document. The hand-held terminals scan the label to track the location of the asset in the supply chain.

To transition to SATS, Luke spent about \$200,000 to update its current system. This includes training, updating technology and purchasing nearly 60 hand-held terminals. The project will be paid for with



Senior Airman Elizabeth Krichbaum
Airman Melissa Beaushaw scans a package for Tech. Sgt. Enrique Rodriguez with a hand-held terminal as part of Luke's new SATS system.

funds created by eliminating an entire section and two supply positions, no longer needed because of SATS, Master Sgt. Miguel Garcia, 56th Supply Squadron computer operations chief, said.

The system requires all supply customers to have a smart card.

"Without a card, customers will not be able to sign for property when it arrives at their duty section," Barney said. "Our customer service department has already started contacting several units

See **SATS** Page 9

Census 2000: stand up, be counted

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Counting the population of the United States is so important to its government, it is an integral part of the Constitution.

This is because population determines the number of seats each state is authorized in the House of Representatives. The census is also often used to apportion funds to state and municipal governments.

Furthermore, U.S. military servicemembers and their family

members must be counted also. The Census Bureau will work with military officials to ensure all servicemembers and their families are "enumerated" by the bureau.

Here's how military members are to be counted in this survey accomplished every 10 years:

- ♦ Servicemembers living within the United States are counted at their usual residence, the place where they live and sleep most of the time, whether on base or off.

- ♦ Servicemembers assigned to installations outside the United States — including families with

them — are counted as part of the U.S. overseas population.

- ♦ Crews of ships homeported in the United States are counted at their usual onshore residence — where they live and sleep most of the time. If they report no onshore residence they are counted at the ships' homeports.

- ♦ Crews of ships homeported outside the continental United States are counted as part of the U.S. overseas population.

This is where servicemembers

See **Census** Page 7

Luke Leaders

Lt. Col. Mike France took over command of the 62nd Fighter Squadron Monday.

Position: 62nd Fighter Squadron commander

Family: Wife, Karen; son Joseph, 7; daughter, Sarah, 4, and son David, 2

Education: Graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1982 with a bachelor's of science degree in engineering and a master's degree in engineering from Arizona State University.

Previous assignments: Attended one of the first F-16 basic courses at Luke; flew F-16s at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea; taught at the U.S. Air Force Academy; and attended Fighter Weapons School at Nellis, Air Force Base, Nev.

Hometown: Glendale, Ariz.

Inspirations: My parents

Goals: To be a good parent to my children and good leader to my troops.

Bad habits: Plenty



France

News Briefs

Main gate closure

The main gate is closed today from 4 to 4:45 p.m. for a retirement ceremony and formal retreat. The retirement ceremony for Lt. Col. Rob Kesterson begins at 4:15 p.m.

Income tax assistance

The Luke Tax Center opens Tuesday at Bldg. 1150, Rm. 1064. The center provides free income tax help to active-duty members and retirees Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Appointments are not necessary. For more information, call the tax center at 856-3140 or Staff Sgt. Jay Dorris at 856-6901.

Logistics professional banquet

The Logistics Professional Banquet is March 11 at 6 p.m. in Hangar 913. The event recognizes 56th Fighter Wing outstanding maintenance and support personnel. For tickets, contact squadron chief master sergeants.

Vehicle registration renewal

People with a "99" beside their vehicle registration decal must renew at the pass and registration office on the second floor of Bldg. 1150. Owners need proof of registration and insurance, a Department of Defense identification card and a driver's license. Vehicles with out-of-state plates from 1967 to 1995 also need proof of Arizona emissions testing. Also, anyone with an indicator from another base must acquire one from Luke within 15 days of arrival. Simply jot down the current decal number and bring it with the other required documents. For more information, call 856-6521.

Tuition assistance change

Due to a change, 100-percent tuition assistance is only authorized for tuition and fees for off-duty courses leading to high school completion or an equal certificate. Also, 100-percent assistance may not be used for developmental courses in English, math, reading or introductory computer courses. Assistance for these courses is paid at 75 percent.

Flying training board

Application packages for undergraduate flying training are due Feb. 17. The board meets March 30 at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph, Air Force Base, Texas. Applicants born after Jan. 1, 1971 are eligible. In addition, applicants must have completed the basic attributes test and have the appropriate physical exam. For more information on the application process, call the relocation element at 856-7820.

Command chief needed

The Air Force Personnel Center Chiefs Group, in conjunction with Air Combat Command, seeks a command chief master sergeant for Eskandar Village, Saudi Arabia. The person selected must report by June 8. For more information, call 856-7852 for details.

Dental coverage

Military members enrolled in the dental program must review their leaving and earnings statement to ensure premiums are being deducted before scheduling dental appointments. People affected need to call the Deers Support Office at (800) 538-9552. The personnel center or finance cannot correct this item.

16 and counting

The family support center leads a 16 and counting briefing Feb. 9 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. in their training room. Anyone retiring within three to five years should attend; spouses are also invited. For more information, call 856-6378.

TRICARE maternity care change

Except for emergencies, maternity patients not enrolled in TRICARE Prime are required to obtain all outpatient prenatal, outpatient or inpatient deliveries and outpatient post-partum maternity care at a military treatment facility.

A nonavailability statement isn't required for patients who have other health insurance that pays primary to TRICARE. The insurance must be a medical-hospital surgical plan, that covers inpatient hospitalization. For more information, call TRICARE member services at 856-7705.

Thunderbirds select Luke NCO

By Senior Airman J. Propst
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Thunderbirds, the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron recently selected a Luke crew chief to join its team.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Fisher, 308th Fighter Squadron, joins the team at Nellis Air Fore Base, Nev., in April.

The Thunderbirds perform precision aerial maneuvers demonstrating F-16 capabilities to people throughout the world.

Fisher said he's wanted to become a Thunderbird member for quite a while.

"I didn't want to go through life with regrets, so I decided to try out," Fisher said. When I get

older and go to airshows, I don't want to say 'I could have done that.' Instead I'll be able to say 'I did that.'"

Fisher decided he wanted to be a Thunderbird while he was stationed at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. His commander was a team member and often told stories of his time on the team, Fisher said.

To apply, prospective members must send a special-duty package, including a letter stating why he or she wants to join the team. Applicants must also

"Before I found out (about the assignment) I was a mixture of apprehension and confidence. Now that I've been chosen, I'm ecstatic."

have recommendation letters from their commanders and their spouse.

As a Thunderbird team member, Fisher continue serving as a crew chief. His exact duties depend on his skill level and abilities compared to the other members of the maintenance team.

During the next three years, Fisher will travel with the team to airshows around the world.

Fisher joined the Air Force in 1992. A high school friend convinced him to enlist.

"I had just graduated high school and didn't have a clear plan. Then I saw my friend in uniform and thought what he was doing was cool," Fisher said.

Fisher chose aircraft maintenance as his career field because he has al-

ways enjoyed working on cars and taking things apart. He attended technical school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, immediately after graduating from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

The Oregon native's first assignment was at Luke followed by tours at Pope and Kunsan Air Base, South Korea. Fisher returned to Team Luke in March 97.

"Before I found out (about the assignment) I was a mixture of apprehension and confidence," said Fisher. "Now that I've been chosen, I'm ecstatic."



Tech. Sgt. Brandt Smith
Staff Sgt. Matthew Fisher, 308th Fighter Squadron crew chief, inspects an F-16.

Course teaches officers AF 'ins, outs'

By 2nd Lt. Miki Kristina Krejcarek
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Company grade officers attended an inaugural course Jan. 10 to 14 to further enhance their professional competence and teach them how different components of the base work.

The Company Grade Officers Course followed a basic curriculum provided by the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., which consisted of briefings, group exercises, case studies and tours.

Course goals are to educate company grade officers about teamwork between units and the skills needed to lead, follow, manage and mentor while gaining knowledge beyond their career specialties, said

Lt. Col. Paul Price, 56th Mission Support Squadron commander.

By integrating these goals, Price said junior officers can go back to their units with a better understanding of the different components of the base.

"By knowing what is available out there, they'll do a better job in their roles as company grade officers," he said.

During the five-day course, nearly 30 speakers presented their philosophies on core values, mentorship and leadership. The speakers brought subjects alive through discussions of personal examples, historical case studies and real-world situations.

"The discussions allowed the company grade officers to share their views and develop techniques for living the core

values," said Col. Herb Foret, 56th Operations Group deputy commander.

Besides experiencing various philosophies and the opportunity to network with other officers, senior leadership involvement was as important to course success.

"It helped all of us appreciate the value of the class to know that the wing leadership was behind it," said 2nd Lt. Dave Graham, 56th Fighter Wing Manpower and Organization consultant. "When a (commander) stands in front of you and explains what their mission is, that makes a real impact."

Price foresees changes in the future, although the class met expectations.

"We want to provide more time for discussion and group interaction, to include more enlisted speakers," he said.

The CGO Course is just steps away from possibly becoming a formal part of the professional military education curriculum, Price said.

Dr. Richard Lester, Air University's Ira C. Eaker College for Professional Development educational advisor to the commander, attended to validate the program.

"Luke was only the 15th base Air Force-wide to offer this new professional development so we had a lot of flexibility on how to conduct the course," Price said.

"Not only did we get our validation, but Luke is now being used as the benchmark for other bases that are bringing their courses on line. What made our program stand out was senior leadership's tremendous involvement and the quality of the officers that participated."

Luke aids small business owners

By Mary Jo May
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

More than a thousand people participated in the second annual "Mastering the Purchasing Maze" procurement fair Jan. 21 at the Desert Star Enlisted Club.

The Luke-West Valley Council hosted the fair to teach small business owners how to sell their products and services to the federal government and large private sector firms.

"There are significant benefits here for small business owners in dealing with large companies," said Chuck Berkenkamp, City of Glendale event coordinator and business development manager. "The panel discussions that we offered can help small business owners get a better sense of how to work with larger purchasers, like Luke."

Workshops focused on doing business with the federal government, schools, colleges and universities, local and state governments and private-sector firms.

The event was the biggest procurement fair at any Air Force base with the most variety of exhibitors, said Brig. Gen. John Barry, 56th Fighter Wing commander.

"This is the first major cooperative effort between this number of cities and the federal government," Barry said. "This is the first time multiple geographically-separated military bases and other military buying agencies have joined together to further the economic opportunities for a city."

Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs and Peoria Mayor John Keegan, and Joe Dean, Arizona's Small Business advocate, talked about the great partnership between Luke and the West Valley.

"For years the West Valley community and Luke have joined together to work on issues of common



Senior Airman Elizabeth Krichbaum
The procurement fair taught small business owners how to sell their products to the government.

concern," Scruggs said. "The base is not an isolated country speaking a different language, but sometimes when you have the military in your city, it may seem that way.

"We have been working hard to integrate everything we do," she added. "This is a tremendous accomplishment bringing together business development right here at Luke."

Keegan talked to the procurement fair attendees and exhibitors about Luke's economic impact on the West Valley generating \$2 billion a year.

"Every one of those cars parked in your parking lot with a (Department of Defense) sticker in the windshield is business you're getting because of Luke," Keegan said. "(The fair) is an opportunity to enhance that opportunity to put more money in our local economy."

Nurses' phone offers patients improved care

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

As a part of Falcon Folks and in an effort to provide improved patient care, the 56th Medical Group opens a Nurse Call Center Feb. 22 for Team Luke's nonactive-duty TRICARE Prime customers.

The program allows patients calling for an acute care appointment an initial healthcare screening with an experienced registered nurse.

This increases the availability of providers by managing the caller's healthcare concerns using doctor-written medical protocols.

"The hospital providers see many patients with concerns that could easily be addressed by a registered nurse," Lt. Col. Stephen Turner, 56th Medical Operations Squadron chief nurse executive. "My experience at the Nurse Call Center at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, showed that 20 percent of callers were given home treatment information with a follow-up call the next day. We had a 95-percent customer satisfaction rate after only three months of operation."

When a customer calls the central appointment desk for an acute-care appointment, the appoint-

Home basing

Air Force Personnel Center announces survey results

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Results from the Home Basing Survey, administered by the Air Force Personnel Center, show that Air Force people overwhelmingly like the “home base” concept. However, very few “unconditionally” favor the concept. The home basing concept proposes people have the opportunity to be stationed at one location for an extended length of time after the first four to six years of service. The survey gained an overwhelming response, with 13,894 Air Force people completing the survey: 3,795 officers, of which 392 were pilots, and 10,099 enlisted troops. The Web-based survey indicated Air Force people overwhelmingly like the home base concept. Of those surveyed officers, 83 percent; pilots, 87 percent; and enlisted, 93 percent preferred the concept. Neither the number of days people were on temporary duty in the past year, nor their current assignment location made any difference in one’s view of the home basing concept. However, at least half want to be able to select their base — officers, 48 percent; pilots, 58 percent; and enlisted, 59 percent — some want to change duty assignments while home based — officers, 25 percent; pilots, 8 percent; and enlisted, 18 percent — and some want to be able to select their duty assignment — officers, 6 per-

cent; pilots, 16 percent; and enlisted, 13 percent. The majority of personnel want to remain on station between five and 12 years — officers, 76 percent; pilots, 76 percent; and enlisted, 60 percent — almost one-quarter, or 22 percent, of the enlisted members said they would like to be on station for 17 to 20 years. Realizing some potential impact on their career if the concept of home basing were implemented, both officer and enlisted respondents reported fear of being home based at an undesirable location, opportunity for promotion and opportunity to change duty assignments as their key concerns. Those who do not favor the home basing concept tend to be single, career oriented and more likely to have been promoted below-the-primary-zone — 7 percent vs. the 3 percent Air Force average. They are also more likely to change their career intent to “separate” if the home basing concept is adopted. One Luke member said he likes the concept. “It would allow for family and financial stability,” said Senior Airman Donald Propst, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance journeyman. “Uprooting children from school and spouses from work can be difficult. It would give you the chance to set future goals.”

Call Center

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ment clerk conducts a DEERS eligibility check and records the caller’s name, phone number and symptoms, then forwards the information to the Nurse Call Center. A nurse then calls the patient to determine the severity of symptoms and any pre-existing medical conditions. The nurse then schedules an acute care appointment or directs the patient to the emergency room, to call 911, or offers home care options with a follow-up call the next day. Nurses at the center are aided by an advanced computer program to guide callers to a plan of care. The program includes physician-approved protocols for more than 300 healthcare topics. “Our goal is to have a much stronger focus on self-care,” said Turner. “The program helps us ‘zero-in’ on caller concerns. This allows us to provide members with the tools and services they need for self-care and to ensure they receive the appropriate treatment at the right time and in the right setting.” The nurse call center offers beneficiaries an opportunity to speak with one of the most trusted caregivers, the registered nurse,” he added. “We believe we can make a significant impact on the health of our customers.”

AF releases CSAF survey results

Initial analysis indicates job-satisfaction strides, optempo, pay concerns, Ryan vows further study

WASHINGTON — The 1999 Chief of Staff’s survey reveals strides continue to be made in job satisfaction, teamwork and quality-of-life issues compared to 1997 results. However, dissatisfaction is still evident in several areas including pay, operations tempo and supervision.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan received the results of the survey Jan. 21, which measured the service’s organizational climate and quality of life. More than 190,000 responded, 36 percent of the Air Force population.

The organizational climate section addressed 13 key unit level factors ranging from leadership to unit resources.

Overall results

Overall results of the survey varied little from 1997. Job satisfaction remained consistent at 90 percent. Unit performance outcomes, teamwork, core values, job enhancement, and training and development fell in the 80 to 84 percent satisfaction range. General satisfaction, unit flexibility, recognition and unit resources remained nearly constant in the 66 to 79 percent satisfaction range.

Quality of life

The survey’s quality-of-life section focused on Air Force priorities such as community programs, pay and retirement benefits, people and operations tempo, hous-

ing, educational opportunities and health care. Emphasis was also placed on more contemporary issues like readiness, retention and a sense of community.

The survey revealed that 54 percent of enlisted people and 62 percent of officers are satisfied with medical care, while 42 percent of enlisted families and 45 percent of officer families are satisfied with medical care. On housing, 71 percent of married enlisted people and 73 percent of single enlisted people are satisfied with current housing, while 83 percent of married officers and 85 percent of single officers are satisfied.

A sense of community at Air Force bases is important to 82 percent of officers, 70 percent of enlisted and 73 percent of civilians. On the issue of quality of life at duty stations, 63 percent of enlisted, 75 percent of civilians and 77 percent of officers responded positively.

Retention issues

Regarding career intentions — whether or not to stay in the service, or undecided — 61 percent of enlisted and 68 percent of officers indicated plans to stay, while 81 percent of civilians plan to remain in DOD service. Education programs rank among the top five community programs that affect servicemembers’ career intentions.

Between 63 percent and 76 percent of first- and second-term airmen and company grade officers indicated that a retirement plan where everyone received 50 percent of their base pay would increase the likelihood of them staying in for 20 years. Likewise, 59 percent of career airmen and 71 percent of field grade officers said the likelihood of serving 20 years or more increased with pay raises tied to cost of living.

Room for improvement

According to survey results, there is still room for improvement in several areas, such as compensation,

including housing allowances; health care services for family members; rising optempo; undermanning and dissatisfaction with leadership and supervision.

Ryan said the significant pay and compensation gains made in the fiscal year 2000 defense budget should help address some of the servicemembers’ concerns expressed in the survey.

Optempo

In operations tempo, the number of days spent on temporary duty and the number of hours worked per week has increased steadily since 1995, according to survey results. Officers who reported TDYs spend an average of 62 days per year TDY and work a 55-hour week, compared to an average of 50 days TDY and a 51-hour week in 1996.

For enlisted members who reported TDYs, the average number of days spent TDY increased by 22 days to 68 days, and the hours spent at work each week have risen from 46 in 1996 to 51 in 1999. Undermanning at the work center accounted for about 15 percent of the increased number of work hours.

Leadership

Overall, compared to 1997, satisfaction in supervision, participation and involvement, and leadership fell by 2 or more percentage points across the board.

“I appreciate the participation by the Air Force family, and I’m satisfied with the process and the initial review of the data,” Ryan said. “It verified many of the things we already knew. It appears we’ve made progress in many areas, but we still have work to do, particularly with optempo, compensation concerns and health care.

“Air Force people spoke their minds in the survey,” Ryan said, “and Air Force leadership at all levels is listening and engaged in making the Air Force a better place to serve our nation.”

Blotter

56th Security Forces Squadron members responded to the following incidents Jan. 17 through Monday.

Accidents:

- ♦ An airman 1st class hit an F-16 with a government vehicle.
- ♦ Two civilians were in a vehicle accident in the commissary parking lot.
- ♦ An airman 1st class struck a pole with his vehicle in the post office parking lot.
- ♦ Security forces assisted Maricopa County with an off-base vehicle accident.
- ♦ A technical sergeant backed into a senior airman's vehicle in the Bldg. 1535 parking lot.

Thefts:

- ♦ A staff sergeant's portable compact disc player was stolen from the hospital.
- ♦ A retired colonel's wife was detained for shoplifting at the base exchange.
- ♦ A digital video disc player was taken from Bldg. 941.
- ♦ A civilian was detained for shoplifting at the BX.
- ♦ An airman 1st class had his wallet stolen from the Dormitory 546 dayroom.

Damage:

- ♦ A government employee's vehicle was

damaged while parked at the enlisted club.

- ♦ An airman 1st class' vehicle was damaged in the Dormitory 546 parking lot.

Miscellaneous:

- ♦ An airman was assaulted outside Dormitory 546.
- ♦ An airman was detained for assault.
- ♦ A civilian was detained for driving under the influence.
- ♦ An airman was detained for under-age drinking.
- ♦ An airman 1st class complained of loud noise in the dorms.
- ♦ A civilian was detained for outstanding warrants.
- ♦ A civilian was detained for trespassing.
- ♦ An airman was questioned for involvement in a road rage incident.
- ♦ A senior airman was arrested off base for domestic violence.
- ♦ A staff sergeant was detained for disobeying a lawful order.

Anyone with information on these incidents, call the security forces desk at 856-5970 or investigations at 856-3748. To report a crime or an emergency, call 856-5970 or 911. People may remain anonymous.

Census

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will be counted, but for apportionment of the seats in the House of Representatives, they are assigned to their voting residence, said Census officials.

Each base has a project officer to work with the Census Bureau. Servicemembers fill out special forms called Military Census Reports.

They can claim their home addresses or report the address of their barracks. Sailors and Coast Guard can fill out Shipboard Census Reports.

Servicemembers living in family housing in the United States receive a questionnaire just like civilians in the surrounding communities.

Still, servicemembers must fill out both the Military or Shipboard Census Reports and the questionnaires.

The first counts for the 2000 Census have already been made. Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt personally enumerated resi-

dents of Unalakleet, Alaska, Jan. 20, to kick off the first U.S. population census of the century.

The scene shifts to the rest of the United States with about 100 million advance letters going to households between March 6 and 8. The census will mail the questionnaires March 13 through 15. April 1 is National Census Day.

The Census questionnaires ask how many people are in the household April 1.

"That's how we get the snapshot of America," said a Census Bureau spokesperson.

The Census Bureau needs workers to fill thousands of short-term employment slots during Census 2000. Prewitt urged everyone interested in a census job to call the agency's toll-free number at (888) 325-7733.

Military family members can apply for these jobs. DOD civilians can also work these part-time jobs on their off hours.

For more information, the addresses of local census offices are available on the Internet.

Shelton outlines 21st century military role

By Kevin F. Gilmartin
Special to the American Forces Press Service

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — “The military makes a great hammer in America’s foreign policy toolbox, but not every problem that we face is a nail,” the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told more than 200 people at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 19.

Public opinion

Army Gen. Henry Shelton spoke about the intersection of force and diplomacy and discussed the importance of the American public’s support for any use of America’s military abroad.

“As a world superpower, can we dare to admit that force cannot solve every problem that we face?” Shelton said. “I think that the decision to use force is probably the most important decision that our nation’s leaders can make. Of course, it has to be a civilian decision. It has been, and hopefully always will be, based on sound military advice.

“Let’s be realistic,” Shelton said, “I think that in any intervention that we face, anytime that we use our forces abroad, we are going to face opposition here at home. This is not only the nature of American democracy, but it is at the very heart and soul of our very system.”

Military parameters

He said America should set clear parameters as to when the use of military force is appropriate.

“The fundamental purpose of our military forces is to fight and win the nation’s wars,” the chairman said. That’s not the only purpose, however. “The military can do a lot of other things in support of our foreign policy and national interests, including maintaining America’s presence around the globe, providing deterrence where appropriate and intervening if necessary.”

“The fundamental purpose of our military forces is to fight and win the nation’s wars. The military can do a lot of other things in support of our foreign policy and national interests, including maintaining America’s presence around the globe, providing deterrence where appropriate and intervening if necessary.”

Army Gen. Henry Shelton
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

He outlined three categories in which he believes military intervention could be used: vital national interests, important national interests and humanitarian.

Vital national iterests

“By vital national interests, I mean things that will really directly impact our way of life such as the safety of American citizens abroad, the security of our territories or that of our allies, the protection of our economic well-being.

“That’s seldom an issue,” he said. “Those issues are very clearly discernible as vital national interests. Of course, we’ll do whatever we need to do to protect these interests; and force, when applied in combat, will be done in an overwhelming and decisive manner.”

Important interests

The second category, important national interests, includes “those things that are short of our national survival, but nonetheless, will affect our nation,” Shelton said. “If there is a threat to our important interests, then military force will be used if the cost and the associated risks are commensurate, and if there is not another element of our national power that might be more appropriate for the mission at hand.”

Humanitarian efforts

Using America’s military in hu-

manitarian efforts is sometimes appropriate, the general said. “The appropriate use of our armed forces can bring a solution to the immediate problems at hand and set the stage for international leaders to address the longer term, more systemic deficiencies,” Shelton said.

When the scale of conflict dwarfs the ability of international aid agencies to respond, “such as we saw happen in Rwanda, then the military can be used, and should be used, in a very efficient and effective manner,” Shelton said.

Relief efforts

He also cited the effective use of the military in relief efforts for national disasters, such as support of Turkey after earthquakes there in the summer.

Such efforts should be “limited in duration ... have a clearly defined end state ... and they should entail minimal risk for our troops,” Shelton said.

“They should be designed to give the affected country the opportunity to restore its own basic services,” he said. “At the same time, we have got to ensure these efforts should not jeopardize our ability to respond to direct threats to our national security in other regions of the world.”

Regardless of what type of threat America’s forces are responding to, sustaining these forces abroad requires the support of the American people, Shelton said.

“Needless to say, any operation that we do is not going to be without risk to our troops, and insertion of armed forces always carries with it the potential for casualties,” he said.

Therefore, Shelton said, each situation needs to be subjected to what he calls the “Dover Test,” named after Dover Air Force Base, Del., the point of entry for the bodies of servicemembers killed in action. “We have to ask the question, ‘Is the American public prepared for the sight of our most precious resources coming home in flag- draped caskets into Dover Air Force Base?’” Shelton said. This should be among the first things raised by Washington decisionmakers.

Use of fire

During the past decade, the use of America’s armed forces in situations around the world has increased dramatically he said. The overriding lesson from these operations “is that we must bring all of our resources to bear — our political, diplomatic, military and economic — if we expect to be successful solving nonmilitary problems, especially those that are rooted in religious, cultural or ethnic strife,” he said.

“Sometimes providing assistance and help is exactly what this nation should do,” Shelton said. “But it is also always prudent, I think, to consider the unintended consequences which may accompany well-intentioned impulses to use our strength for the good of the international community. We may find out that sorting out the good guys from the bad is not as easy as it seems. We may find that getting in is much easier than getting out. I think that these are the types of issues that we should confront up front before making a decision on whether to commit our military forces.”

Editor’s note: Gilmartin is the chief of media relations at the Air Force Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

AF revises prior service skills hoping to fill NCO shortages

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The Air Force hopes to attract at least 300 former airmen to return to active duty in fiscal 2000 through the enlisted prior-service skills program.

This program complements the annual nonprior service accessions program. In addition, it allows the Air Force to immediately fill NCO shortages in certain specialties through the accession of individuals with previous military experience.

The Air Force completed its latest review of the program — 115 Air Force specialties now qualify. The basic criteria for former Air Force or other service enlisted members to re-enter the active force include:

- ♦Served no more than 12 years of active-duty service
- ♦Separated no more than 6 years from the time of re-entering active duty
- ♦Grade of E-4 through E-6
- ♦Did not receive a monetary incentive such as the voluntary separation incentive or the selective

separation bonus upon separation from active duty.

Reserve and Guard members are also eligible to participate with commander approval. These members and former Air Force personnel whose specialty is not on the prior service skills list are also eligible for retraining into shortage career fields.

A limited number of retraining opportunities in the following Air Force specialty codes are available to prior-service enlistees:

- ♦Combat control, 1C2X1
- ♦Pararescue, 1T2X1
- ♦Military training instructor, 8B0X0
- ♦Recruiting, 8R0X0

Sister servicemembers who successfully complete the physical abilities and stamina test are eligible to enter training as combat controllers and pararescue.

For more information on qualifying Air Force specialties, contact your local Air Force recruiter, call the Air Force Opportunities Center at (800) 423-USAf, or visit <http://www.airforce.com>.

SATS

Continued from Page 3

who may be users to make the transition easier.”

Training has already started, cards have been issued and use begins no later than Feb. 9, The full transition should be complete by the end of March, Barney said.

Another benefit of SATS is accountability. A transaction is more secure than the former hand-written receipt method because an item can be tracked and located at any time.

Even though SATS is new to Luke, it has been in development for about 10 years. The program began at the Pentagon in the early 1990s. The original SATS program tracked asset visibility, eliminated paper documents and reduced errors and processing time to one-fifth of the normal time, plus reduced manning requirements. The new technology is comparable to what Federal Express or United Parcel Service uses to track their packages.

“The transition may be difficult at first, but with a little patience, SATS will be much faster and efficient in the long run,” Staff Sgt. John Ciarrochi, 56th Supply Squadron assistant NCO in charge of storage and issue, said. “It’s just a matter of people getting used to it.”

For more information or to receive an enrollment form, call Barney at 856-7877.

DOD tells depleted uranium story

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — There's more to the story on depleted uranium than what people saw on the CBS news program "60 Minutes," said Bernard Rostker, head of Defense Department's office on Gulf War Illness.

The U.S. armed forces first used depleted uranium munitions and armor in combat during the Gulf War. A "60 Minutes" broadcast, aired Dec. 26, focused on the military's failure to train service members on the substance commonly known as "DU."

The U.S. military uses DU in armor-piercing tank rounds and as armor because of its extreme hardness. DU is about 40-percent less radioactive than natural uranium.

During a recent interview, Rostker acknowledged that this training failure resulted in some servicemembers receiving excess exposure. He pointed out, however, that "60 Minutes" did not focus on whether or not those exposures have proven to be harmful.

Rostker, who is also undersecretary of the Army, met with the "60 Minutes" crew for 45 minutes, but appeared on the air for only 45 seconds. He said the finished segment only briefly mentioned an important fact about Department of Veterans Affairs research into DU. After years of monitoring servicemembers exposed to DU, the VA has determined DU has had no health impact on these servicemembers.

"Yes, we didn't do what we should have, but ("60 Minutes") chose to gloss over the fact that the lack of training did not result in any medically significant consequences for any of the people that were exposed," Rostker said. "We are concerned about our servicemembers' health and there is nothing that we have been able to discover that would indicate that this is related to any unexplained illnesses."

Most servicemembers did not receive DU training during the Gulf War, Rostker said. He said he believes this was because "the danger of being exposed was

"Defensively, it constitutes a substance that we use in protecting our tanks. During the Gulf War, no Iraqi shell penetrated a tank that was protected by (depleted uranium) armor. It stops it cold."

Bernard Rostker

Head of Defense Department's office on Gulf War Illness

known to be so trivial — nonexistent."

"We had an obligation to do the training," he said. "We told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in our licensing that we would provide this training. It's something we should have done, and we didn't follow through."

Rostker said his office has worked to improve DU training. "We're pressing each of the services to train people who might be exposed to depleted uranium," he said. The Army has made DU training one of the common soldier tasks for new recruits during basic training.

In the past, Rostker said, DU training tended to scare people by showing people in Mission Oriented Protection Posture gear. Gas masks and MOPP suits are no longer considered necessary, he noted. Current training calls for wearing a dust mask and gloves, prudent safeguards required by the NRC.

"You want to prevent inhalations from the small particles, and prevent accumulation on the skin," he said. "But even if there was inhalation and there was accumulation, the body throws off the uranium in very short order. One would not expect to see any either short-term or long-term impact, and that's what has occurred here."

Defense officials also warn servicemembers to stay away from wrecked vehicles to avoid all toxic agents. "It turns out you'll get a larger dose of radiation from the radium on the instrument dials in Russian-made tanks," Rostker said. "They're actually putting out more radiation than any of the depleted uranium that might have struck the vehicle."

While some have charged that DU has contaminated the Middle East, Rostker

said, there is no lingering danger in the Gulf from the substance. Environmental teams have tested soil samples in the region and found no call for further clean up. Servicemembers deployed there have absolutely nothing to fear, he said.

"Even under the most stringent requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency, all of the samples environmental officials have taken and analyzed were either at background or well below any level that would require cleanup."

Defense and VA officials continue tracking three categories of people exposed to DU during the Gulf War, Rostker explained. Level One are those involved in friendly fire incidents. Level Two are those who worked in and around DU. Level Three includes anyone else who may have had casual contact.

Officials have monitored 33 out of 107 people categorized as Level One for about the past five years. "Those were the 33 that were most exposed to depleted uranium," Rostker said. "Sixteen of those still have depleted uranium fragments in their bodies in ways that can't be surgically removed without destroying underlying muscle."

The first of two studies of this group was published recently in a peer-reviewed medical journal. It concluded there were no observed health effects that could be attributed to DU exposure, Rostker said. "That doesn't mean these veterans aren't suffering. They're suffering from the wounds of the burns associated with being hit by a round in a vehicle.

"There were some elevated uranium counts in those who still have fragments, as one would expect," he said. "But no radiological impact that could be noted

and no impact on the kidneys, which is the organ where one would expect to see damage if there was to be damage," Rostker said.

Rostker said the second report, due to be published soon, covers the last three years and comes to exactly the same conclusion. There's no indication to date that there is any impact on those most heavily exposed during combat, he said.

Defense officials have been proactive in their efforts to seek out Level Two people exposed during clean-up operations, Rostker said.

"We've sent out literally hundreds of letters requesting that people in the units involved contact the VA and get the test kits they need to collect their urine ... and bring it to a military treatment facility or veterans hospital," he said. "The VA still owes us a report on that, but it's our understanding that there's been no excess accumulation of uranium and we don't see it in their kidneys, in their urine, etc."

VA officials intend to continue monitoring those exposed to DU and propose to expand their studies.

Any veteran who believes he or she was exposed to DU and wants to be tested can call (800) 472-6719 or go to the GulfLink Internet site for more information.

DU is part of America's arsenal and it's here to stay, Rostker said, because it gives U.S. forces an important advantage both offensively and defensively.

"Defensively, it constitutes a substance that we use in protecting our tanks. During the Gulf War, no Iraqi shell penetrated a tank that was protected by DU armor," he said. "It stops it cold.

"Offensively, let me just say, the troops called it the magic bullet. It allowed them to engage at ranges up to 3,000 meters. It flies true. It's a one-shot kill. I've seen what a depleted uranium round can do to a (Russian) T-72 tank. It went in and it came out the other side. It is devastating."

Defense Secretary William Cohen recently nominated Rostker to be the next under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. If confirmed, he will retain his position as Cohen's special assistant for Gulf War illness.

Aviator Continuation Pay

Technology aids program implementation

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — When the Air Force implemented the new Aviator Continuation Pay Program Nov. 16, it had to come up with a way to process more than eight times the normal amount of applications.

In past years the pool of pilots eligible for the program was about 1,000. This year, with the changes to the pilot bonus program, that pool of eligibles increased to 8,100.

It was the job of five individuals working in the operational programs branch at the Air Force Personnel Center to come up with a way to handle that eight-fold increase. What they came up with was a Web-based program that allows pilots to gain first-hand knowledge of the program, and also allows them to complete applications online, cutting out five layers of administrative work present with the previous program.

“Without this interactive Web-based program, we simply could not have implemented the ACP program in the time frame we were given,” said Lt. Col. Bob Sirois, operational programs branch chief. “We paid out more pilot bonuses in three weeks in December than we had in the last three years combined. The only way we were able to do that was through the program’s automation.”

Under the previous program, individuals at AFPC would print the contract, stuff it in an envelope and mail it to the military personnel flight. The MPF would then have to send it through base distribution to the individual unit commanders, who were then respon-

sible for getting it to the pilots. The whole process was then reversed to get the documents back to AFPC.

Col. Herb Foret, 56th Operations Group deputy commander, visited the program action officers at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and said the system is very responsive and informative.

“Even though the electronic system was fast, it still maintains commander involvement and tutelage because the Aviator Continuation Pay Program agreements are finalized and forwarded through the pilots’ commanders,” Foret said.

This program allows MPFs to use their time more efficiently by eliminating their administrative requirement. It lets the people who use the program on a daily basis access the information much more rapidly, Sirois said.

The new program not only simplifies the procedure, but it ensures the pilots have access to the correct information. Having agreements online allows pilots to explore their options more quickly than in the past. Instead of waiting three to four weeks, agreements were available for pilots to look at on day one. This technology also gives pilots the opportunity to sit down and see first-hand all the details of their particular bonus agreement.

“We’ve had people who have literally sat down at their computer, gotten on the Web, read the program’s instructions and in five minutes had their agreement filled out and fired off to us,” said Maj. Harold Brown, chief, Aviator Continuation Pay Program. “It is a very

easy process. It is especially beneficial to those pilots located in out-of-pocket places like the air attaches we have based at embassies and those geographically separated from their units. This program literally cuts the processing time from months to minutes.”

Foret, who has first-hand experience completing the Aviator Continuation Pay Program agreement, came away with a positive view of the program.

“If a fella like me, who didn’t grow up in the electronic age, can work through the system with ease, the more computer-literate pilots must breeze through it,” he said.

As with any new program, however, this one has not been without issues. The good thing about the technology though, is that feedback is instantaneous.

Foret said he hasn’t heard of any problems with the process that were not successfully resolved in a timely manner.

“We encourage those people who are using the system to send comments, both good and instructional ... the more improvements we make, the better it is for the next guy that comes along,” Sirois said.

The Web site can be found at <http://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/acp/default.htm>.

“The Aviation Continuation Pay Program is just one initiative in progress to improve pilot retention,” said Foret. “If taken in context with the other initiatives, it may be impossible to factually determine if the aviation continuation pay bonus is the main component toward increased pilot retention.”

Remembering Sarah

Air Force staff sergeant’s daughter writes book for cancer patients

By Master Sgt. Rick Burnham
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. (AFPN) — There was something extraordinary about Sarah Marston, the 6-year-old daughter of Staff Sgt. Michael and Vicki Marston ... uncommon compassion and understanding ... a desire to help whenever and wherever she could ... an intellect beyond her years.

Look no further than the book she wrote as proof, the book designed to help young cancer patients through the trials and tribulations of the disease. Look no further than the lives she touched and the difference she made in those lives.

Sarah died Nov. 29, one month short of her seventh birthday, and two weeks after completing the book, “Sarah, a 6-Year-Old Unafraid of Cancer,” which details her yearlong bout with the disease. Now, for the first time since her passing, the Marstons have spoken openly of Sarah, and of the exceptional courage she displayed in the face of a killer.

Michael, an Air Force weather forecaster, talked of the special relationship they had as father and daughter.

“Just to know her, I think, was a privilege, but to have been her dad was precious,” Michael said. “Sarah was a very loving little girl. She had uncondi-

tional love for everyone she met. I think that is the best way to sum up her personality — unconditional love.”

Sarah, added her mother, got a special satisfaction from putting smiles on the faces of people she met.

“She found beauty in everyday life,” said Vicki. “She always wanted to make other people happy — she enjoyed making other people happy. She had a ‘Mother Teresa’ kind of love.”

While Sarah’s story is one of love and happiness, it’s also about energy and enthusiasm, of trust and determination. It’s a testament to the human spirit, and to the special bonds within a family. It’s a story that will tug at your heart, and not let go.

It began with a nine-day period in mid-1998 during which Sarah experienced a series of debilitating headaches, accompanied by considerable weight loss. After initial tests at the clinic failed to determine the cause, Sarah and her mother were referred to Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis, Wash., where, Sept. 4, 1998, doctors confirmed the presence of a brain tumor.

It’s the kind of news that, deep down, every parent hopes to never hear.

“There is nothing anybody can say to prepare you for that,” said Michael. “That’s pretty much on a par with the worst day of my life.”



Courtesy photo

Sarah Marston died of brain cancer before her seventh birthday. She wrote a book titled, “Sarah, a 6-Year-Old Unafraid of Cancer,” to help other young victims deal with the disease.

A team of specialists performed the critical surgery the next morning, and, despite the confirmation of the malignancy of the tumor, all indications were positive. Doctors believed they had removed the entire mass, and that the disease had not spread.

The morning of the surgery marked the first time Sarah would defy the

medical experts at Madigan. Moments after being told that it would be some time before she would be able to speak, Michael was greeted with the words every father holds near and dear. “She said, ‘I love you daddy,’” Michael said. “I’ll always remember that moment.”

————— See **Sarah**, Page 13

Sarah

Continued from Page 12

Weeks of radiation treatments and chemotherapy followed to ensure the disease was gone for good. Along the way, the idea for the book surfaced between Sarah and her mother.

“Some of the tests require the patient to be perfectly still for long periods of time, so most children have to be sedated,” said Vicki. “Sarah was the first child under 8 years old who did not need sedation for the tests. When she asked why other children would need ‘sleepy medicine,’ which was what we called sedation, I told her that the tests were very frightening for some children. That’s when Sarah came up with the idea to write a book to help other children understand that there’s no reason to be afraid.”

The book also details the hair loss that comes with chemotherapy, an experience that can be particularly traumatic for a young child. After talking with her mother and father about it, Sarah made a choice her father calls courageous.

“We told her that she would lose her hair,” he father said. “We gave her a choice of keeping it long until it fell out, or getting it cut short so that it would be easier to clean up after it fell out. She made the decision to get it cut short, which I think shows just how courageous a young lady she was.

“Sarah made a conscious decision not to let the treatments break her,” Michael added. “There were times when I know she was in pain, but she chose not to complain.”

Sarah’s tenacity eventually paid off in the spring of 1999 when, after 31 radiation and 11 chemotherapy treatments, doctors found no traces of cancer in her body. Months later, with that clean bill of health in mind, Michael deployed to Korea with members of his unit in October.

He vividly remembers the early afternoon when he was awakened by a co-worker in early November with news that Sarah was sick once again.

Vicki had noticed the same symptoms that were

“I was there to cut the umbilical cord when she was born, and when she died, she died in my arms.”

Staff Sgt. Michael Marston

Sarah’s father

present when Sarah first became ill, and had taken her to Madigan, where tests were being run.

“My first reaction was that it couldn’t be happening,” he said. “Then I had to spend the entire flight back across the Pacific fearing the worst.”

Those fears were realized when doctors confirmed the presence of cancer cells in Sarah’s spinal fluid. It was a devastating blow to the family, considering the options left available for treatment. This time, tests showed the cancer had spread throughout her brain and was no longer conducive to radiation and chemo treatments.

“We had basically given it our best shot, and it had come back stronger than ever,” he said. “Things couldn’t have been much worse.”

Less than a week after the discovery, however, things got worse. As a result of the spreading cancer within her body, Sarah suffered a stroke while at home with her father, leaving her paralyzed on the left side of her body and in grave condition. Doctors gave the Marstons virtually no hope for a recovery. Sarah would have to re-learn how to speak, and for the third time in her short life, including following the brain surgery, she’d have to re-learn how to walk.

In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, she did both, once again defying both the doctors and their medical reasoning. Sarah was released from the hospital to spend the holiday at home with her family, a five-day stretch that both Michael and Vicki said was a blessing.

“Those five days were very special,” Michael said. “I firmly believe they were a gift from Sarah.”

With the cancer now raging inside her, Sarah

suffered an attack Nov. 29 similar to the stroke earlier in the month. This time it proved to be too much for the child. With doctors and nurses, along with religious and social workers in the room, Sarah died in the arms of her father, with her mother and brother, Tony, at her side.

Despite losing a child, the Marstons are quick to acknowledge the superb care they received at Madigan. If they had to go through the entire ordeal again, they would make the same decisions as before.

“From day one, everyone at Madigan was great,” Vicki said. “They were there when we needed them, not just to support Sarah, but us as well.

“I know, in my heart, that they loved Sarah and that they would do anything they could do to help her. Anyone who loses a child will tell you that it is the most painful thing — too deep for words. But I can only imagine how much more painful it would be if I had to second-guess my doctors’ choices, or if I thought that the nurses didn’t treat her as nice as they treated the other children or didn’t give us the time that they gave other people. The day that Sarah died, they knew she was dying, and her room was continuously filled — people rotating in and out, doctors and nurses and social workers — the entire staff, to say goodbye to Sarah. They were just weeping, openly weeping.”

At the time of her passing, Michael said, he experienced a calm, peaceful tranquility that is hard to put into words. He compared the experience to “playing a game of tag with God.”

“I was there to cut the umbilical cord when she was born, and when she died, she died in my arms,” he said. “So in a sense, it was like God handed her off to me, and I was handing her back to God.

“I’m just thankful for the time we had her, and I feel proud to have been her father.”

Sarah’s unwavering faith in God, her father said, provides a great deal of comfort for both parents, and a firm belief that they will all meet again.

“She had a very personal relationship with God, and that is very comforting,” he said. “I’ll see her again, I know without a shadow of a doubt that I will. That’s my greatest comfort, just knowing that we will be together again.”

On the road to recovery

Luke's physical therapy clinic provides compass to patients

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Treadmills, cross trainers, a leg press machine, cable machines for the arms, back and shoulders, exercise bicycles and various types of dumbbells and barbells.

First impressions are of a small but well-equipped private health club as patrons work to improve muscle strength, flexibility, balance and mobility.

It's not a gym, but the 56th Medical Group Physical Therapy Clinic, providing patients a compass on the road to recovery.

Serving more than 120 new patients every month, Maj. Jose Fonseca-Rivera, 56th MDG physical therapist, and his staff of six helps patrons learn proper exercise techniques specific to their recovery needs.

"Our goal is to provide our patients the tools to recover from an injury or illness as quickly as possible," Fonseca-Rivera said. "It's a team effort between the staff and patient."

Serving TRICARE Prime members, physical therapy patients are referred by their primary care manager for everything from sports and occupational

injuries to post-surgical recovery.

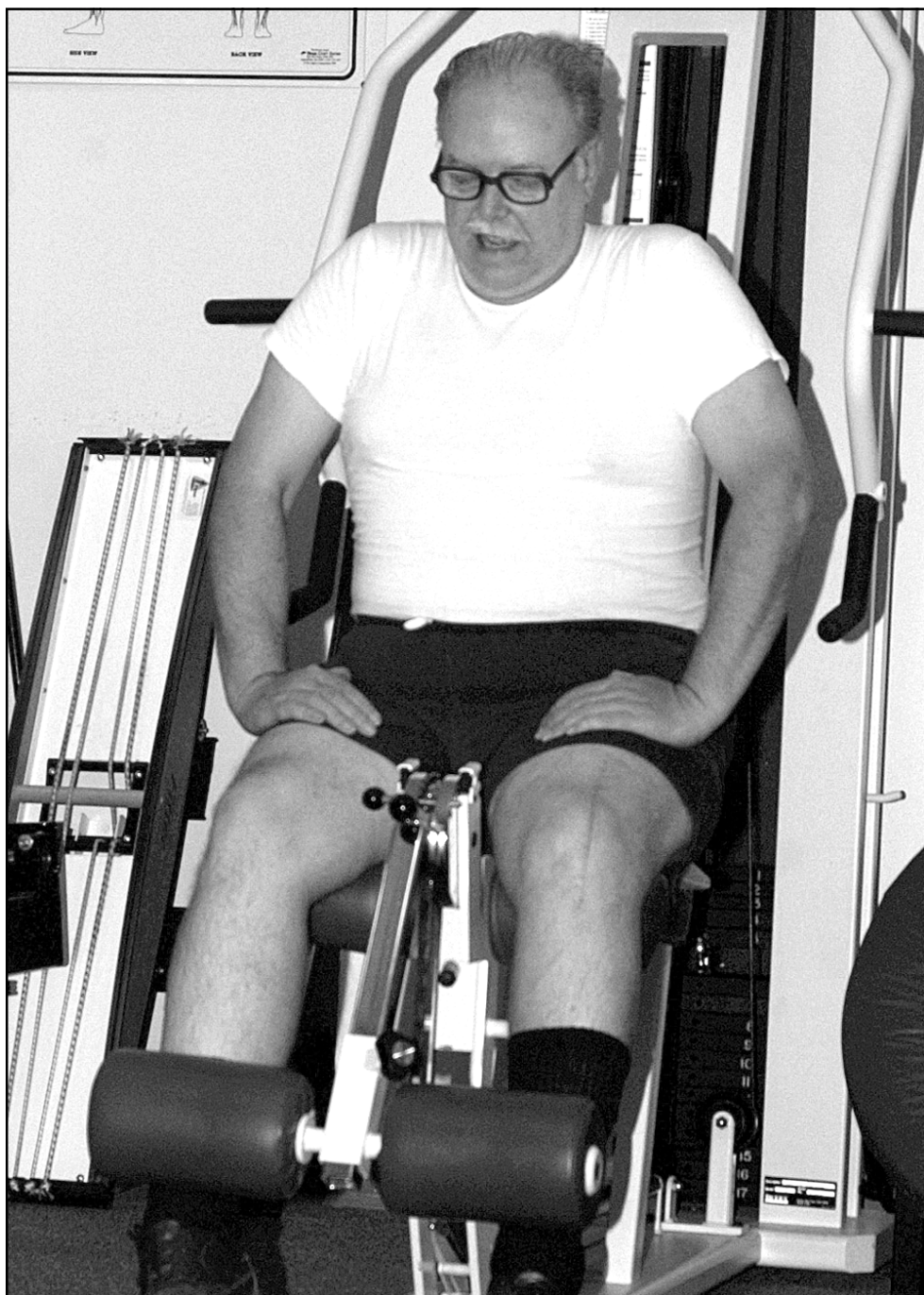
"Recovery includes both in-clinic and home exercise," said therapist 1st Lt. Michael Blowers. "Most patients require multiple visits to the clinic for therapy, but we also teach them how to do the proper exercise to get them back to their normal lifestyle as quickly as possible."

On her first visit to the clinic after orthoscopic knee surgery, 12-year-old Jessica Oberg learns how to regain full range of motion and strength to her right leg and end more than three years of knee pain. Blowers explains his plan to aid in her recovery.

"Jessica is a good candidate for self-therapy at home," Blowers said. "As with many of our patients, we will monitor her progress and teach her how to recover through a tailored therapy program."

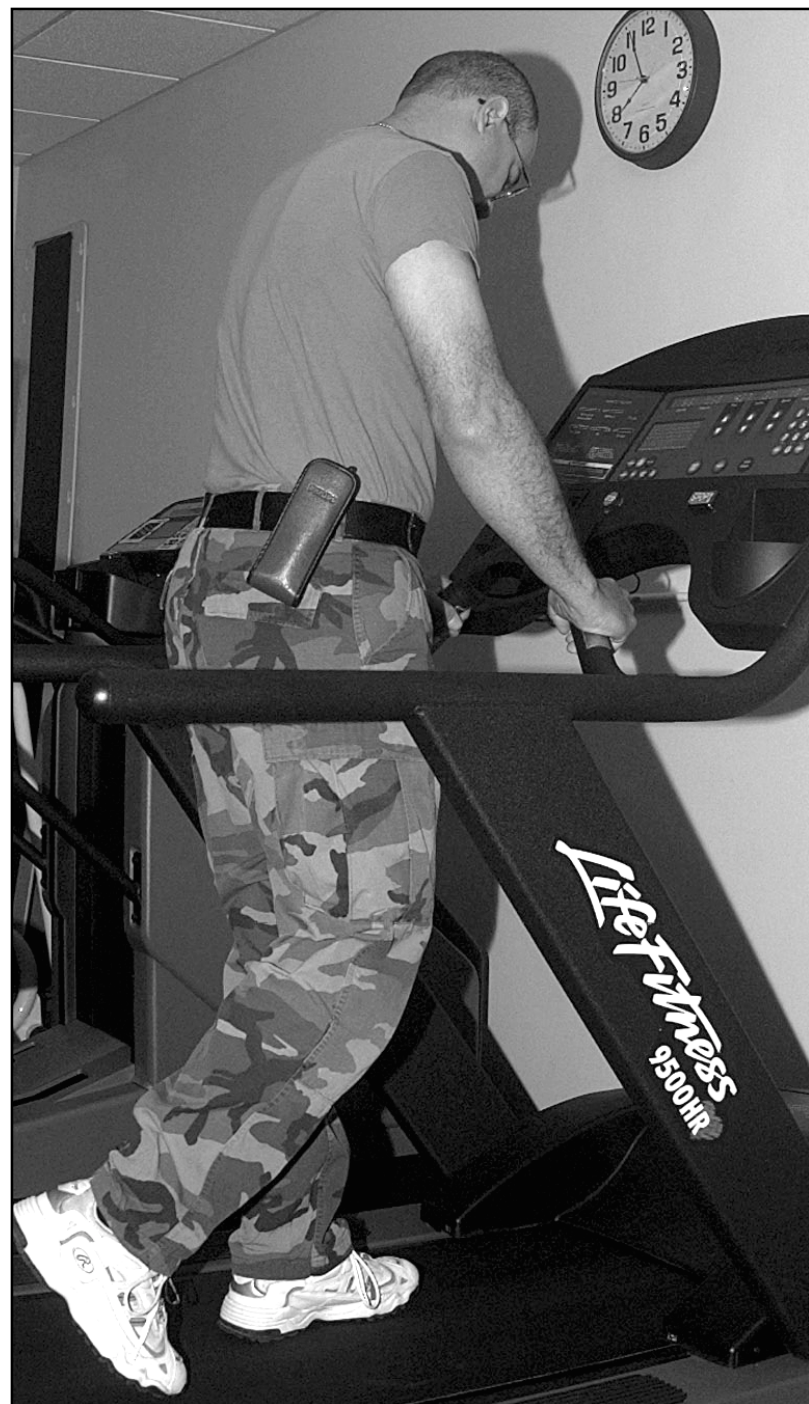
Following the credo of "Providing physical therapy to promote health, welfare and mission accomplishment," the physical therapy team does their best to get Luke airmen back to duty after an injury or illness.

"Making quality care with compassion a reality is our contribution to mission accomplishment," Fonseca-Rivera added.

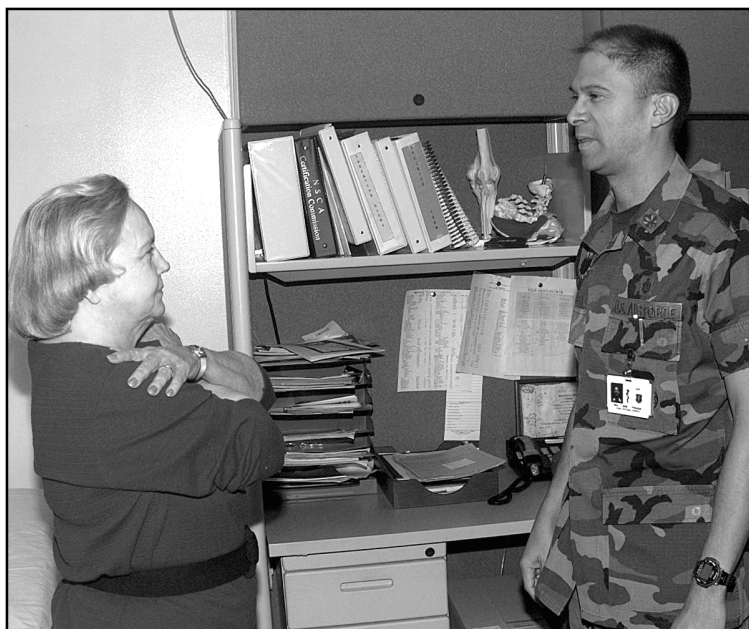


Photos by Senior Airman Shanna Jones

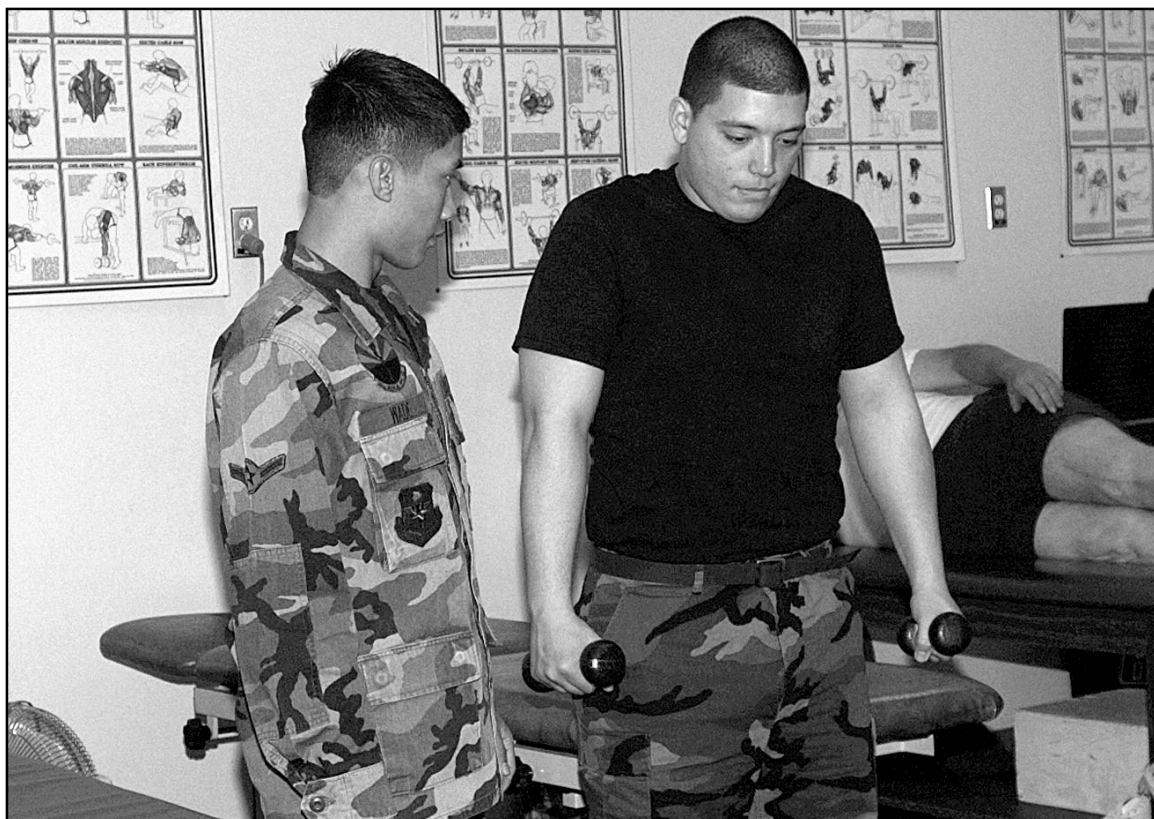
Francis Gallagher does leg extensions to strengthen his muscles as part of his physical therapy regimen.



Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Aquilino Garcia walks on the treadmill as part of his rehabilitation process.



Maj. Jose Fonseca-Rivera, 56th Medical Group physical therapist (left), evaluates patient Anne Sweeny as she performs a test to determine balance. (Below) Airman Joey Wade, physical therapy apprentice, explains proper exercise technique to Airman 1st Class Shawn Stegall, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron.



Salutes

Air Force best

56th Contracting Squadron
The following 56th Contracting Squadron people are the 1999 Air Force contracting award winners:
Supervisory professionalism: Alan Zero
Nonsupervisory professionalism: Staff Sgt. Thomas Bonner
Officer: Capt. Anthony McGraw
Airman: Airman 1st Class Joseph Chapman
NCO: Staff Sgt. Steven Munnell
Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Denise Krems
Contingency contracting: Staff Sgt. Kurt Weilbaecher
Quality assurance evaluator: Sharon Hill, 56th Transportation Squadron

AETC best

56th Medical Group
The following 56th Medical Group people are 1999 AETC award winners:
Dental: Maj. Donald Hoaglin
Physical therapy: Maj. Jose Fonseca-Rivera
Laboratory: Senior Master Sgt. George Bates
Harvey S. Cain Award: Airman 1st Class Monika Reyna
Maxine Beatty Award: Lt. Col. John James
Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Melanie Fay
NCO: Tech. Sgt. James Brown

Annual award winners

56th Fighter Wing
The following people are 56th Fighter Wing information manager 1999 award winners:
Airman: Senior Airman Jeffrey Schetroma, 56th Component Repair Squadron
NCO: Tech. Sgt. Thomas Lemmon, 309th Fighter Squadron
Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Rene Camarillo, 56th Communications Squadron
Civilian (GS-6 and below): Abigail Pano, 56th Supply Squadron

56th Logistics Group
The following 56th Logistics Group people are the 1999 award winners:
Airman: Senior Airman Ellen Carver, 56th Supply Squadron
NCO: Tech. Sgt. James McDonald, 56th LG
Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Gregory O’Neil, 56th LG
Company Grade Officer: Capt. Christopher Brockway, 56th SUPS
Civilian (GS-6 and below): Sharon Hill, 56th Transportation Squadron
Civilian (GS-7 and above): Diane Russell, 56th Contracting Squadron
Civilian (federal wage scale): Andrew Angulo, 56th Component Repair Squadron

56th Support Group
The following 56th Support Group people are their 1999 award winners:
Airman: Senior Airman Wilbur Barras, 56th Security Forces Squadron
NCO: Tech. Sgt. Douglas Crider, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron
Senior NCO: Senior Master Sgt. Robert Jenkins, 56th CES
Company grade officer: Capt. Robert Frederiksen, 56th SFS
Civilian (GS-6 and below): Ruth Taylor, 56th Comptroller Squadron
Civilian (GS-7 and above): Dorothy McDaniel, 56th Mission Support Squadron
Civilian (federal wage scale): Dean Johnson, 56th CES

Air Force Research Laboratory
The following Air Force Research Laboratory people are their 1999 award Awinners:
NCO: Tech. Sgt. Ken Harper
Company grade officer: Capt. Geoff Barbier

Quarterly award winners

A team from the 308th Fighter Squadron won the load crew of the quarter competition. Team members

are Staff Sgt. Laurie Tully and Senior Airmen Darryl Dew and Troy Copeland.

56th Logistics Group
The following 56th Logistics Group people are their quarterly award winners:
Airman: Senior Airman Brian Nelson, 56th Logistics Support Squadron
NCO: Staff Sgt. David Sirfus, 56th LSS
Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Joseph Mezatis, 56th Component Repair Squadron
Company grade officer: 1st Lt. Jay Hennette, 56th CRS
Civilian (GS-6 and below): Sharon Hill, 56th Transportation Squadron
Civilian (GS-7 and above): Cully Charlesworth, 56th Contracting Squadron
Civilian (federal wage scale): Cleam Coleman, 56th Supply Squadron

56th Support Group
The following 56th Support Group people are their quarterly award winners:
Airman: Airman 1st Class Erin Kutz, 56th Civil Engineering Squadron
NCO: Staff Sgt. Joe Martinez, 56th CES
Senior NCO: Senior Master Sgt. James Crissinger, 56th Security Forces Squadron
Company grade officer: Capt. Christopher Burrelli, 56th CES
Civilian (GS-6 and below): Geno Piccoli, 56th Mission Support Squadron
Civilian (GS-7 and above): Vernadene Loveland, 56th MSS
Civilian (federal wage scale): Michael Meyer, 56th CES

56th Contracting Squadron
The following 56th Contracting Squadron people are their quarterly award winners:
NCO: Staff Sgt. Kurt Weilbaecher
Civilian (GS-7 and above): Culley Charlesworth

Air Force Research Laboratory
Tech. Sgt. Ken Harper is the Air Force Research Laboratory, NCO of the quarter.

Vet stresses pet responsibility

By Senior Airman Jeremy Clayton Tredway
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Due to a recent rash of bites at Luke family housing, the 56th Fighter Wing Veterinary Services Clinic stresses caution when dealing with animals and urges people to educate themselves about what to do if bitten.

Most animal attacks can be prevented by understanding normal pet behavior and the warning signs of an impending strike, said Army Staff Sgt. James Reynolds, veterinary clinic NCO in charge.

Most attacks occur because pet owners fail to control their animals or select a volatile breed. Bites also occur when people provoke animals, he said.

Because animal bites are inevitable, Reynolds said people should understand and follow simple first-aid procedures for treating them.

Bite victims should wash the wound with soap and water to prevent infection then seek medical care.

“Seeking medical care is not only common sense,” Reynolds said, “but a military requirement for all animal bites.”

Upon arrival at the medical facility, technicians record the circumstances of the attack, a description of the animal, the animal’s owner and the patient’s personal information. This information is critical for case investigation or if medical staff needs to contact the patient for follow-up treatment, Reynolds said.

“We attempt to determine whether the animal was exhibiting normal or abnormal behavior,” he said. “Victims should provide as much detail as possible. In cases of unknown animals, animal control needs all available information to search for the animal.”

The attack is logged at the treatment facility and public health, police and veterinary medicine personnel are notified. When necessary, the Rabies Advisory Committee is requested to evaluate risk and determine follow-up treatment.

Veterinary services quarantines the animal, submits it to diagnostic laboratories for rabies diagnosis if indicated, documents the health status of the animal and forwards the form to public health.

If veterinary services is unable to obtain the animal, bite victims must undergo post-exposure rabies prevention vaccinations.

“Rabies is fatal if untreated and the risk is too great to avoid treatment,” Reynolds said.

Family housing residents are required to obtain immunizations for their pets and any treatment necessary to keep their pets from becoming a hazard to the community, according to Luke regulations. Additionally, owners must register their animals at the veterinary clinic within five working days of moving into family housing.

Pets are prohibited from running loose at any time. They must be on a leash held by a person of sufficient size and maturity to safely control the pet. If kept outdoors pets must be confined in a secure, fenced back yard and, when necessary, the pet must be held or tied so the animal can not leave the fenced yard.

Stray or loose pets must be reported to the security



Senior Airman Elizabeth Krichbaum
Airman 1st Class Michelle Clark, 56th Operations Support Squadron, keeps her dog, Lady, under control as they walk in family housing.

forces desk at 856-5970 and will be turned over to Maricopa Animal Control.

Residents are prohibited from having “dangerous animals.” This includes pit bull terriers or any animal that has been involved in an attack on a person or animal. Additionally, housing residents are prohibited from having nondomestic species like snakes, rabbits or ferrets. This includes domestic animals, generally used for food production such as chickens, goats or sheep.

Chapel News

Worship schedule

The following is Luke’s worship schedule:

Protestant worship

- ♦ Gospel service is Sunday at 8:30 a.m. at the Chapel on the Mall.
- ♦ Liturgical service is Sunday at 8 a.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- ♦ Contemporary service is Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- ♦ Shared faith service is Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.

Catholic worship

- ♦ Saturday Mass is at 5 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- ♦ Sunday Mass is at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- ♦ Weekday Mass is at noon at the Luke Community Chapel.

Sunday school

The Luke Protestant Sunday School meets Sundays at Luke Elementary School from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Classes are available for ages 3 through adult. Transportation is provided throughout the family housing area. To register or for more information, call Betty Moore at 856-6211 or Jackie White at (623) 772-5949.



Protestant Youth of the Chapel

Protestant Youth of the Chapel meets at the Luke Community Chapel Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. for concerned parents and youths ages 12 through 18. Meetings teach youths how to make decisions that have a positive effect in their lives.

For more information on other chapel programs, call 856-6211.

Commander’s Access Channel

Air Force Television News, Jan. 10 edition

- ♦ Senior leadership special
 - ♦ AF secretary and chief of staff
 - ♦ AF chief master sergeant
- Monday**— 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.
Wednesday— 11:30 a.m.
Thursday— 2 p.m.

Around Base

Koats for kids

The 56th Logistics Support Squadron is collecting clean coats to donate to less fortunate people of all ages from Tuesday through Mar. 1. For more information, to volunteer, or to make a donation, call Chief Master Sgt. Mike Grant at 856-7485.

Law enforcement careers

- ♦ The Fort Huachuca Army Career and Alumni Program Center sponsors a law enforcement job fair Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the La Hacienda Club at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. For more information, call Thom Hapgood at (520) 533-7314.
- ♦ The family support center sponsors recruiters from the Dallas Police Department today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call Al Solis at (214) 670-5093.
- ♦ The family support center hosts representatives from the Mesa Police Department and the Oregon State Police Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 856-6781.

Black heritage luncheon

There is a Black heritage luncheon Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. the Desert Star Enlisted Club. Guest speakers are Chief Harold Hurtt from the Phoenix Police Department and Arizona Councilman Cody Williams. The cost is \$7. For tickets or more information, call Damita Klaiber at 856-7834.

OWC scholarships

The officers wives club offers \$500 scholarships for spouses and \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors for the 2000 to 2001 school year. Active-duty and retired military dependents are eligible. Applications may be picked up at the education office, family support center, the enlisted and officers clubs, the thrift shop, base library or from first

sergeants. The application deadline is March 15. For more information, call Katie Gillen at 856-7191.

TROA scholarships

The Retired Officers Association has \$1000 scholarships for graduating high school seniors for the 2000 to 2001 school year for active-duty dependents. The application deadline is March 1. For more information or to apply, visit TROA's website at <http://www.troa.org>.

Searching for Elvis

The Youth Center seeks an Elvis impersonator for a Valentine Sock Hop Feb. 11 from 7 to 10 p.m. To volunteer or for more information, call 856-7470.

Red Cross volunteers needed

The American Red Cross seeks volunteers for Luke facilities such as the hospital, dental clinic and pharmacy. For more information, call Linda Sherwood or Stephanie Nordstom at 856-7823.

Temple of Beth-El visitors' day

The Temple of Greater Beth-El sponsors a 10thannual visitor's day Sunday at 10:45 a.m. The Temple is at 6902 W. Heatherbrae Drive, North of Indian School Road near 67th Avenue. For more information, call (623) 848-1633.

Korean War veterans

The 50th anniversary of the Korean War begins June 25 and continues through July 27, 2003. Korean War veterans are asked to register with the U.S. and Korea 2000 Foundation. For more information, visit the website at www.uskorea2000.org or call (703) 212-8128.

Hospice volunteers needed

Hospice of Arizona seeks volunteers to assist terminally-ill patients and their families. For more information, call Traci Pope at (602) 678-1313.

Movies

Movies begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Children 12 and under pay \$1; adults \$1.50. All admission and concession items are \$1 Mondays.

Friday

“The World is Not Enough” (PG-13)
Greed, revenge and high-tech terrorism — It’s all in a days work for James Bond played by Pierce Brosnan, who races to defuse an international power struggle with the world’s oil supply hanging in the balance. (120 minutes)

Saturday and Monday

“Sleepy Hollow” (R) Johnny Depp is Ichabod Crane. To win the heart of Katrina Van Tassel, played by Christina Ricci, he braves the woods, even though several decapitated bodies have been found. This is the story of the legendary axe-wielding headless horseman. (105 minutes)

Sunday

“Three Kings” (R) Staring George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg. American soldiers in Iraq at the end of the Gulf War embark on a treasure hunt for gold reportedly buried near their base. (115 minutes)

Feb. 4

“Flawless” (R) Walter Koontz is a retired, ultra conservative police officer who lives in New York City’s Lower East Side. While trying to help a neighbor in trouble, he has a stroke, leaving him partialy paralyzed. His rehabilitation program includes singing lessons with a performer, who lives upstairs, a sweet-tough drag queen named Rusty. (111 minutes)

Postal services releases Year of the Dragon stamp

By **Rudi Williams**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A U.S. postage stamp was issued in San Francisco Jan. 6 honoring the Year of the Dragon in celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year, which begins Feb. 5.

This lunar year is special to the Chinese because it's the millennium or "Qian Xi" — the "Year of a Thousand Happinesses."

"The postal service takes great pride in issuing the new Lunar New Year stamp," said Clarence Lewis, who dedicated the stamp in San Francisco at the Fairmont Hotel. "What better time to issue a commemorative stamp that represents a time of celebration, renewal and hope for the future than the beginning of the year 2000?"

Clarence Lee, an American of Chinese descent, designed the black, cyan, yellow and red horizontal 33-cents dragon stamp. He combined calligraphy with a paper-cut design of a dragon and the words "Happy New Year" on the right side of the stamp. Lee snipped the design from a sheet of paper and then pasted it on a background. The dragon, representing "The Year of the Dragon," winds around the stamp with the head pointed downward.

Lee, a Honolulu native, was commissioned to design the remaining four of the twelve-stamp series. The series runs through 2004.

People born in the Year of the Dragon,

1940, 1952, 1964, 1976 or 1988, for example, are said to be full of life and enthusiasm and are very popular people with a reputation for being "fun-loving." They also have a strong and energetic character, are self-confident and curious and work toward perfection. Those born under the dragon can become good artists, priests or politicians.

Collectors worldwide can obtain first-day-of-issue postmarks by mail their requests are postmarked by Feb. 5. Customers should affix the new stamps on envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes to themselves or others, and place them into a larger envelope addressed to:

Lunar New Year - Dragon Commemorative Stamp
Postmaster,
P.C. Box 880066
San Francisco, CA 94188-9991

The Stamp Fulfillment Services also offers other first day covers for new stamp issues. Customers may request a free catalog by writing to:

Information Fulfillment
Depart. 6270
US.S Postal Service
P.O. Box 219014
Kansas City, MO 64121-9014, or by calling (800) STAMP-24.

First day covers remain on sale for at least one year after the stamp's issue.

For more information on stamps or to see an image of the Lunar New Year dragon stamp, visit the Postal Service web site at: <http://www.usps.gov> and click on "Stamps Online."

United Service Organization

Lounge serves as gateway

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force leaders joined state and local representatives at the opening of the United Service Organizations' newest lounge at Baltimore-Washington International Airport Jan. 20.

"I recall coming back from (Vietnam), when there were a lot of cold shoulders for the military, there was always one place you could go to get a warm smile and a hot cup of coffee — the USO lounge," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan.

The USO's International Gateway Center is expected to serve more than 250,000 servicemembers and their

families annually. It is a state-of-the-art, full-service facility designed to make traveling to and from duty stations in Europe, southwest Asia and the United States more comfortable.

Billed as a "home away from home," the 5,000-square-foot facility features a technology center with three computers, portals for laptop computers, a complimentary snack bar, a television lounge with a 72-inch screen and a nursery outfitted with cribs, toys, a television and videocassette recorder.

The lounge, with a hospitality desk staffed by volunteers, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Armed forces opens vacation club

By **Jim Garamone**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The terms "cheap" and "vacation" don't often go together, but the Armed Forces Vacation Club manages the feat.

The club started Aug. 1 and offers active and reserve military identification card holders, military retirees and Department of Defense civilians vacations in resorts around the world for \$209 per week. More than 1,000 people have used the club to date.

Mike Overfelt, vice president of Cendant Alliance Marketing, said the company has opened the program to servicemembers and DOD civilian

personnel overseas. The company also opened a club Web site at www.afvclub.com to make it easier to book a condominium.

To book a vacation, check the Website and make a selection. Then call the club's toll-free number at (800) 724-9988. Be prepared to give at least three choices of desired places and dates and have a credit card.

Overseas personnel can call the club by using a "call back service" or "call back card" offered by various telecommunications companies.

Overfelt suggest checking the Web-site often because the vacations depend on availability, which changes daily.

Service before self

Tyndall airmen build homes, hopes



Senior Airman Oshawyn Jefferson
Senior Master Sgt. Baundi Bond, 325th Maintenance Squadron Quality Assurance Office chief, takes nails out of the wall frame.

By Senior Airman Oshawyn Jefferson
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFPN)- Despite their mission to “train the world’s best air superiority team for the Air Force,” several base members here recently took the time to lend a helping hand in their local community. Specifically, they’re helping to build new homes with Habitat for Humanity.

“This is a way for members of Team Tyndall to give back to the community in which we live,” said 1st Lt. Lori Vessels, 325th Maintenance Squadron Quality Assurance Evaluation chief and Habitat for Humanity Company Grade Officers’ Council coordinator. “I’ve done this at other bases and it’s always a rewarding experience.”

Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit, Christian-based organization, uses unskilled labor to build low-cost homes for people in need.

“More than 98 percent of the labor that goes into building these three-bedroom, two-bathroom houses comes from volunteers in the local community, and people who receive homes themselves,” Vessels said.

More than 30 people from Tyndall contributed

in 113 combined hours of volunteer work since November 1999, spending their Saturdays helping the local community.

“When you’re a member of the Air Force and you’re out there helping someone build their home, you’re leading by example,” said Capt. Mark Connell, 2nd Fighter Squadron sortie generation flight commander and CGOC volunteer. “And, when you see a person walk in to their new home that you helped them build, it feels good to see the look on their faces and the accomplishment of working as a team.”

During the four-month building process, the person receiving the home has to log in more than 300 hours of time helping to build it. They help lay the foundation and are part of the entire building process. They even get to choose the color of the paint inside and

outside the house, plus the carpet and tile.

“It’s a lot of hard work, but it’s a blessing,” said Elizebeth Smith, a Tyndall Sand Dollar Inn housekeeper and recipient of the home the Habitat for Humanity volunteers are working on now. “I’m really excited about getting a chance to own my own home and to see so many volunteers help out is a blessing. I know God will give them what’s coming to them because you reap what you sow.”

“When you’re a member of the Air Force and you’re out there helping someone build their home, you’re leading by example.”

Capt. Mark Connell
2nd Fighter Squadron

Wild Ducks slay CES in first round

By Senior Airman Jeremy Clayton Tredway
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 309th Fighter Squadron Wild Ducks ran circles around the 56th Civil Engineer Squadron Dragonslayers and away with the game, winning 50-21 Tuesday during the first round of the over-30 basketball playoffs at the base fitness center.

Showing their age, the balding, knee-brace-wearing Dragonslayers straggled up and down the court, while the Ducks exploited them with a run-and-gun offense.

Capitalizing on the Slayers bad passes, missed shots and lack of hustle, the Ducks jumped to an early 16-2 lead before the Slayers took a time out to regroup.

The Dragonslayers didn't break into double digits until the second half and the Ducks had more than tripled their score by then.

Michael House led all scorers with 14 points for the Ducks. John Hammett and Jeffrey Orr added 12.

Stanley Sanchez led the Dragonslayers with eight points, while William White added seven. No other CES player scored more than two.

Scoreboard

First round		
56th Communications Squadron	37	
56th Operations Support Squadron	31	
56th Medical Group	40	
56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron	38	
56th Civil Engineer Squadron	50	
309th Fighter Squadron	21	
56th Transportation Squadron	48	
607th Air Control Squadron	40	
310th Fighter Squadron	52	
63rd Fighter Squadron	38	
56th Component Repair Squadron	46	
21st Fighter Squadron	28	
Second round		
56th Services and Supply Squadrons	37	
56th Communications Squadron	31	
56th Component Repair Squadron	50	
56th Mission Support Squadron	40	



Tech. Sgt. Brandt Smith
Stanley Sanchez, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron, fires up a shot Monday at the base fitness center.

CRS stomps Emerald Knights 31-6

By Senior Airman Jeremy Clayton Tredway
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 56th Component Repair Squadron stomped the 308th Fighter Squadron Emerald Knights 31-6 during the first round of the flag football playoffs Monday at the base fitness center.

Luckily for the Emerald Knights, officials called the game, stopping the CRS offensive onslaught.

The CRS defense only allowed Knights quarterback C.J. Will to complete three passes during the first half — one to the wrong team. The second half wasn't much better for the Knights offense, which only completed four more passes.

Meanwhile, the CRS offense scored at nearly every opportunity.

CRS wide receiver, center and defensive back Kevin Dustin got things started for the team by intercepting a pass on the second play of the game. Three plays later, he pulled in a

touchdown pass, then added a one-point conversion catch to put CRS on top 7-0.

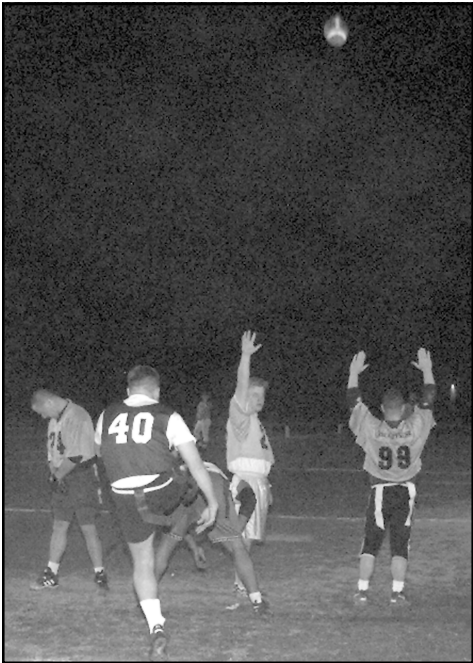
On the second play of the next drive, CRS quarterback Dwight Abel connected with wide receiver Dan "Chicken Legs" Yeck for a touchdown to put them up 13-0. The conversion pass failed.

Abel hooked up with Yeck again for a touchdown on a fourth and long play on the next drive to put CRS ahead 19-0. The conversion pass failed.

On the first play after the half, Abel ran the length of the field for a touchdown to push the CRS lead to 25-0. The conversion pass failed.

After having one touchdown pass called back and one ruled out-of-bounds, Will finally found Terry Barnes in the end zone to put the Knights on the score board. The conversion pass failed leaving the score 25-6.

Their celebration was short-lived. Officials called the game after Abel found Dustin at the left edge of the goal line for the final touch down.



Tech. Sgt. Brandt Smith
308th FS Emerald Knight quarterback and punter C.J. Will punts the ball after a failed offensive attempt.

Scoreboard

First round		
56th Security Forces Squadron	25	
56th Operation Support Squadron	15	
56th Civil Engineer Squadron	22	
63rd Fighter Squadron	16	
56th Component Repair Squadron	31	
308th Fighter Squadron	6	
56th Services Squadron	18	
21st Fighter Squadron	0	
56th Communications Squadron	14	
56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron	6	
62nd Fighter Squadron	22	
607th Air Control Squadron	6	
56th Transportation Squadron	13	
309th Fighter Squadron	6	
Second round		
56th Medical Group	21	
56th Security Forces Squadron	0	
56th Component Repair Squadron	27	
56th Civil Engineer Squadron	8	
56th Services Squadron	24	
56th Communications Squadron	0	
56th Transportation Squadron	13	
62nd Fighter Squadron	6	

Youth bowlers compete in tourney



Tech. Sgt. Brandt Smith
A youth bowler hurls the ball down the lane during the Postal Bowling Tournament at the bowling center.

By Senior Airman Jeremy Clayton Tredway
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

More than 35 Luke 5- to 18-year-olds participated in a Postal Bowling Tournament Saturday at the bowling center.

The competition was divided into four age groups and separated by gender: 5- to 8- year-olds, 9- to 11-year-olds, 12- to 14-year olds and 15- to 18-year-olds. Children in the 5- to 8-year-old category bowled two games, while all other age groups bowled three.

Children in the 5- to 8-year-old category were allowed to use bumpers.

"The object of the program is to introduce youth to bowling as a lifetime sport and help develop their eye and motor coordination," Amy Heil, 56th Services Squadron youth management trainee and acting sports coordinator, said.

The youth center awarded trophies to the male and female with the highest single game score in each category. The winners are:

Ages 5 to 8		
Mark Bailey	118	
Kirstin Bowman	82	
Ages 9 to 11		
Thomas Stuart	173	
Renee Childress	106	
Ages 12 to 14		
Uri Loveless	206	
Tabitha Twing	170	
Ages 15 to 18		
Patrick Bergeron	224	
Malena Twing	191	

Sports Briefs

Farewell golf tourney

A golf tournament honoring 56th Fighter Wing Commander Brig. Gen. John Barry's departure is Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. at the Falcon Dunes Golf Course. The cost is \$35 and includes greens fees, range balls, cart and prizes. Entry forms and payments must be turned in today to Nancy Graham at Bldg. 961. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Jay Hennette at 856-8881 or Capt. Jeff Bouma at 856-6556.

Varsity women's softball

Women interested in playing varsity softball may call Staff Sgt. Shelicia Greer at 856-3308.

Varsity men's softball

Men interested in playing varsity softball may call Staff Sgt. Dave Pacquin at 856-3941.

Varsity baseball

Men interested in playing varsity baseball may call Staff Sgt. Jeff Dahlke at 856-7092.

Youth baseball registration

Luke parents can register their children to play baseball from 2 to 6:30 p.m. through Feb. 14 at the youth center. Cost is \$25 per player. For more information, call Amy Heil at 856-6225.

Youth sports volunteers

The youth sports council seeks adult volunteers to fill various positions. For more information, call Amy Heil or David Walker at 856-6225.

